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ON PAGE A-9

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Graham Greene Doubts Hollis Was Soviet Agent

JERUSALEM, March 5 (AP) — Graham Greene said today that he believed the world's secret services were riddled with traitors, but he discounted allegations that the late Sir Richard Hollis, Britain's counterintelligence chief, was a Soviet agent.

The 76-year-old author and former intelligence officer told reporters that spies "begin to feel a game rather than a cause and begin to play the game both sides."

He called a report that Sir Richard, who was for nine years the head of MI-3, Britain's counterintelligence agency, might have been a Soviet spy "an obvious piece of disinformation originating probably in Russia." He offered no explanation to support his statement.

Chapman Pincher, a British reporter, said in a book excerpted last month in The Daily Mail of London that top-level investigators had looked into the possibility that Sir Richard was a double agent. Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher told Parliament there was no evidence to incriminate Sir Richard, who died in 1973, but she ordered a new investigation of Britain's security services.

Mr. Greene confirmed that he had received letters recently from H. A. R. Philby, known as Kim, a Briton serving the Soviet Union who infiltrated the upper echelon of British intelligence before defecting to Moscow in 1963.

Mr. Greene said that Mr. Philby, his former superior, apparently was trying to mislead him with information on the situations in Iran and Afghanistan. He did not disclose further details of Mr. Philby's letters.

"We were friends," the writer said of Mr. Philby. "I knew he was left-wing, but I didn't know he was Communist. I respect his Communism. He didn't do it for money."

Mr. Greene is in Israel to receive the \$2,000 Jerusalem Prize, a biannual literary award.